



Ambassador's Message

Feature Story

Latest Stories

Upcoming Events

From the Ambassador's Desk

January 2015

Versão Portuguesa

PHOTO HIGHLIGHT



From our [Twitter](#) post:
Ambassador Sherman with the staff of Café Santiago in Porto

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

>> From the Ambassador Robert A. Sherman



Happy New Year Portugal!

2014 ended with one of the most significant developments in U.S. foreign policy – the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba. I join many Americans in hoping that a closer relationship with one of our closest neighbors, with which many Americans share strong family and economic ties, will benefit both of our countries and foster a new wave of reforms that bring greater democracy and prosperity to the people of Cuba.

For those of you following the Embassy on Twitter, you have probably noticed I have been exploring Portugal, first by motorcycle, and more recently, by car, in an effort to highlight the great opportunities that await Portuguese companies from a comprehensive transatlantic trade agreement, or T-TIP. During my most recent trip to the center and north of the country, I had the opportunity to once again meet with innovative, successful and dynamic businessmen and women leading the charge to make the 'Made in Portugal' brand a mark of quality.

I'm also excited about the recent visit we had of a delegation from one of the leading cancer research centers in the United States, MD Anderson, which left Portugal impressed about the quality of medical and scientific research taking place at institutions across the country and committed to establishing longer-term partnerships.

We have a lot more planned for 2015, and I look forward to the chance of traveling to other parts of the country and learning about local success stories. I'm looking forward to a whole host of Embassy initiatives this year, whether it's the continuation of the Connect to Success program to help women-owned businesses, our national Spelling Bee contest which will bring the champion spellers from across Portugal to Lisbon in May, to once again bringing innovative entrepreneurs and hands on science experts to engage with young audiences around the country.

So, **boas entradas**, and please follow us on both our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, so you can know when we are coming to your neighborhood!

FEATURE STORY

>> [Obama Charts New Course on Cuba Policy](#)



On December 17, President Obama announced the most significant changes to our Cuban policy in more than 50 years, ending an outdated approach that has failed to advance U.S. interests for decades.

Major elements of the new U.S. approach include: establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba; adjusting regulations to more effectively empower the Cuban people; facilitating expanded travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba; increasing allowed remittances to Cuba;

authorizing expanded trade in certain goods and services; facilitating authorized financial transactions between the United States and Cuba; initiating a review of Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism; updating U.S. sanctions policy; and pursuing discussions with Cuba and Mexico to resolve maritime boundary disputes in the Gulf of Mexico. There is still much work to be done to improve human rights and democracy reforms in Cuba. The United States is committed to efforts that support free speech, peaceful assembly, and unfettered access to information. Ultimately, it will be the Cuban people who drive economic and political reforms. We are looking forward to a new chapter in U.S.-Cuban relations, and appreciate the voice of support shown by the Government of Portugal.

LATEST STORIES

>> [Ambassador Sherman Leads T-TIP Delegation to Northern Portugal](#) [Read more>>](#)

>> [MD Anderson Cancer Center Delegation Visits Portugal](#) [Read more>>](#)

>> [Spelling Bee Competition in Portugal for 2014-2015](#) [Read more>>](#)

>> [U.S. Embassy Lisbon Participates in International Diplomatic Bazaar](#) [Read more>>](#)

>> [Quorum Ballet Dance Company Performs "Rights"](#) [Read more>>](#)

>> [2015 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Competition Begins](#) [Learn more>>](#)

>> [Check Out the New Issue of Portugal Alumni Newsletter!](#) [Alumni newsletter>>](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

>> [English Spelling Bee Regional Competitions](#)

- January 30@ 9:30 a.m.
Lisbon Regional Bee (Districts of Lisbon, Leiria and Santarém)
American Corner, FLUL (Aula Magna), Universidade de Lisboa, Cidade Universitária, Lisbon
- February 20@ 9:30 a.m.
Madeira Regional Bee
University of Madeira, Funchal
- February 27@ 9:30 a.m.
Faro Regional Bee (Districts of Faro and Beja)
University of Algarve

>> [Lecture on American Music](#)

February 26@2:00 p.m.
Presented by Prof. Carlos Ventura (University of the Azores, Department of Languages and Modern Literature), American Corner, University of Azores

Follow us



From the Ambassador's Desk is published bi-monthly.
Copyright 2015 by U.S. Embassy Lisbon
Avenida das Forças Armadas
1600-081 Lisboa